



THE MORNING NEWS

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Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

Much to the chagrin of importers of Venezuelan gasoline, this business comes to a squelching halt on August 15th



ORANJESTAD -- On Friday, July 29, the Aruba Council of Ministers made a decision regarding the warehousing and importation of gasoline and diesel via small fishing boats from Venezuela. The Aruba Fire Department recently dis-

covered a giant warehouse of gasoline stored in 200 and 55 gallon tanks on the premises of a dwelling home in Savaneta. The Fire Department's report indicates that for the amount of gasoline, the manner in which the gasoline is stored in drums and Jerry cans, such a situation is extremely dangerous. Such a storage is also very dangerous for our environment.

Hence, the Council of Ministers agreed to stipulate a particular procedure for handling this type of situation. After careful consultation with the Ministry of Public Affairs, the Police Force, Fire Department, the Inspector of Environment,



and DTI (Department of Technical Inspection), the decision was taken to shut down any operation where gasoline is stored in major quantities at an establishment or dwelling house. This decision is in keeping with the law regarding environmental disruption.

All material and gasoline warehoused will be removed at the expense of the importer.

Also a formal citation will be issued by the Ministry of Public Affairs.

The Minister of Environment presented a list of measures which entails the prohibition of gasoline from Venezuela. The Council of Ministers was in full agreement and decided to approve the entire package of measures.

The government decided that as of August 15, 2011, they will limit the importation and transportation of gasoline. This decision is based on the law of Public Ordinance of Importation and Exportation. For a period of three months they will prohibit the importation of gasoline in fishing boats from Venezuela. During the three months a government decree

will be formulated to delineate a definite prohibition of importation of gasoline from Venezuela to Aruba.

In addition, the Fire Department, based on the Law of Fire Ordinance with respect to the transport of gasoline and diesel on public roads and the storage of these on land, they will add very strict security requirements.

The Aruba Ports Authority will also introduce requirements specifically for fishing boats transporting gasoline and diesel. Boats carrying gasoline and/or diesel that do not comply with the security requirements will not be permitted to enter Aruban wharfs. This means that as of August 15, 2011, these fishing boats that are not in compliance with the ordinances will not be allowed to dock on our wharfs and will be sent back to Venezuela.

With these measures the Council of Ministers believes to have put an end to the manner in which illegal gasoline and diesel is being imported to our shores from Venezuela. What is taking place now is dangerous and detrimental to our public health and our environment.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Amazon deforestation on the rise again in Brazil



BRASILIA (AFP) - Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon accelerated in June, with more than 300 square kilometers destroyed, a 17 percent increase over the previous month, government researchers said Tuesday.

The National Institute for Space Research (INPE) said 312.6 square kilometers (120 square miles) were destroyed

in June, based on the preliminary analysis of satellite photos of the vast South American rainforest.

May had seen a decrease in deforestation to 268 square kilometers (100 square miles) from 477 square kilometers (180 square miles) in

April.

In April, more than 400 square kilometers (150 square miles) of forests were destroyed in a single state, Mato Grosso, which is seen as a major agricultural frontier and is used for cattle ranches and soybean farming.

At the 2009 UN climate change summit in Copenhagen, Brazil committed itself to reducing Amazon deforestation

by 80 percent by 2020.

Brazil, the world's fifth largest country by area, has 5.3 million square kilometers of jungle and forests -- mostly in the Amazon river basin -- of which only 1.7 million are under state protection.

The rest is in private hands, or its ownership is undefined.

Massive deforestation has made Brazil one of the world's top greenhouse gas emitters, and the pace of deforestation peaked in 2004 at 27,000 square kilometers (10,000 square miles) a year.

By 2010, however, it had dropped to 6,500 square kilometers, thanks in part to the INPE's Real-Time Deforestation Detection System (DETER), which allows researchers to collect new satellite images on a daily basis.

However, the system can only monitor areas of 25 hectares (60 acres) or more, so its results are not considered definitive.

Ex-Murdoch exec arrested over hacking

LONDON (AFP) - A 71-year-old man believed to be ex-News of the World managing editor Stuart Kuttner was detained at a London police station on suspicion of phone hacking and bribing police, Scotland Yard said.

He resigned in July 2009, after 22 years of service and before media reports emerged disclosing that the tabloid paid out more than £1 million (\$1.6 million, 1.1 million euros) to settle cases which threatened to reveal evidence of phone hacking.

Police have so far arrested 11 people since launching a new hacking probe in January, including former News

of the World editor Andy Coulson and ex-chief executive Rebekah Brooks of News International, Murdoch's British newspaper division.

The scandal has sent shock waves through the media baron's global News Corp. empire, forcing the resignations of Brooks and top US aide Les Hinton, and prompting the group to drop its bid for British pay-TV giant BSkyB.

Murdoch has apologised publicly for the phone hacking, which has put his interests in Britain, the United States and Australia under intense scrutiny.

Netherlands to summon Syria's ambassador over violence

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch Foreign Minister Uri Rosenthal will summon Syria's ambassador to the Netherlands "shortly" to discuss the continual military violence there, a foreign ministry Aad Meijer told AFP, without giving an exact date.

The Netherlands however would not recall its ambassador from Damascus "in line with other European Union partners," the foreign ministry added in a statement.

It again called for increased sanctions against Syria and a

quick adoption of a resolution before the UN Security Council condemning the violence.

Syrian security forces continued a deadly crackdown on dissent Tuesday as the Security Council held more talks on Syria.

Three more people were killed Tuesday in Hama, activists said, a day after President Bashar al-Assad's tanks shelled the city following a bloody Sunday in which about 140 people were killed, including more than 100 in Hama.

US shuttle debris surfaces amid Texas drought

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A piece of the ill-fated space shuttle Columbia has surfaced in eastern Texas, where a severe drought has dried up a lake and exposed debris from the 2003 accident, NASA said Tuesday.

The globe-shaped object that turned up in Lake Nacogdoches, north of Houston, was one of 18 tanks on Columbia that helped power the shuttle, said NASA spokeswoman Lisa Malone.

Pictures were sent to NASA engineers at Kennedy Space Center, and experts quickly confirmed that the tank must have been part of Columbia, she said.

The shuttle disintegrated on its way back to Earth in 2003, killing all seven astronauts on

board and leaving a trail of debris that spanned several hundred miles.

The cause of the accident was later linked to a faulty heat shield that had been damaged by a piece of foam that broke free shortly after liftoff.

Malone said 38-40 percent of the shuttle has been recovered up to now and will be stored with other parts of Columbia at Kennedy Space Center.

NASA's Challenger shuttle exploded shortly after liftoff in 1986 due to cold weather and a technical flaw, killing seven astronauts.

The remaining shuttles -- Atlantis, Endeavour, Discovery and Enterprise -- will soon become museum pieces.

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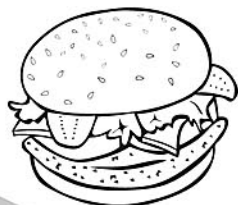
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World Breastfeeding week: "Papia cu mi! Lech'I Pecho"

ORANJESTAD -- "Papia cu mi! Lech'I Pecho," ("Talk to me- Breast milk") is a 3-D experience...and is the moto of the Breastfeeding week this year.

Every year WABA (World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action) dedicates one week from August 1 to 7 to place emphasis on the importance of breast milk. This year WABA has chosen the moto "Talk to me! Breast milk a 3-D experience."

The theme has to do with communication on three different levels and in different sectors. At the Aruba Department of Public Health, the Breastfeeding Commission together with Fundacion Pro Lechi Mama is supporting this action and want to capitalize on this week to dedicate attention to breastfeeding.

In Aruba we normally celebrate our week of Breastfeeding in the 40th week together



with Holland which happens to be October 2 to 8, 2011. Why the 3-D concept? This is because whenever we talk about breast milk, we have the tendency to think about only two dimensions: the period before giving birth up to a certain age of the baby, and the place (the home, community, etc. where the feeding takes place).

However, none of the two dimensions mentioned – time

and place will yield results without the third dimension: Communication. Communication is very essential in protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding. We ought to make good use of the various means of communication available to us today to spread the information concerning the importance of breastfeeding.

This third dimension – Communication involves communicating between the different generations, different sectors, different sexes and different cultures. It stimulates us all to share our knowledge and experience, thus opening up ways for more possibilities. In October, during Aruba's breastfeeding week, the foundation will be giving more emphasis regarding this matter. They will also be announcing their special 3rd annual Breastfeeding Challenge.

Water and Electricity tariffs set to increase by 12.5%



ORANJESTAD -- After many meetings, analysis, discussions and investigations; on Monday Prime Minister Eman, Minister Mike de Meza, Ing. Robert Henriquez and Ing. Osling Boekhoudt made the announcement that as of August 1st 2011, there will be an increase of 12.5% in the water and electricity tariffs. The increase is much more than the government envisioned, but much less than WEB wanted.

The increases are relative to the production costs of water and electricity. In the first instance WEB had calculated a 21.2% increase, which the government considered to be much too high. On the basis of that high increase proposal the government initiated a national social dialogue to address the issue of socializing the tariffs. As it stands today, the more you use is the less you are expected to pay. But, according to the government, that principle is not justifiable anymore

these days.

The Prime Minister indicated that those who use less than 500kw/hour will not see any increase. This represents about 50% of our population who stands to benefit from a socialized program. In the past whenever there was a price increase this was passed on to everyone equally. However, now for the first 500 kw/hr no one would be affected. The socialization program will marginally affect those who are using above this amount.

Those who use above the 500kw/hr will experience the 12.5% tariff increase.

It is in this fashion they will adjust the increase of the tariffs. After a review and revision of the proposed tariffs by the parties involved, namely, SIWA, WEB and the government, WEB agreed to accept the 12.5% increase. Hence, the agreed tariff increase is officially set for 12.5% and to be implemented based on a socialized format.

The Netherlands on the eve of a mosquito plague

The extremely wet weather of the past month in combination with rising temperatures is expected to lead to "an explosion of adult mosquitoes."

Scientists from the Wageningen University are advising people to remove any stagnant water from buckets, water butts and even from saucers under flower pots. Flat roofs and gutters are also places where water may collect.

It's deemed advisable to keep doors and windows closed late at night and early in the morning.

Freshwater ecologist Piet Verdonschot from the university's Alterra research institute says a research team will attempt to create an artificial mosquito plague next week.

The team will try to chart the flying behaviour of the mosquitoes. To this end, they

have collected, refrigerated and stored hundreds of thousands of mosquito eggs. The stored eggs will be artificially hatched in a greenhouse next week.

The researchers hope that measuring the mosquitoes' flying distance will provide useful information on the minimum distance between inhabited areas and river fore-



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Phase 2 of the beautification of Oranjestad begins tomorrow night

DOW Project Manager for the Caya Betico Croes Pedestrian Mall Project announced on Tuesday morning the advancement to the second stage of converting Oranjestad's main street into a pedestrian mall.

Phase 1, which closed off the eastern end since the beginning of the year is completed, and they will now commence the heavy work on the western side of Caya

Betico Croes.

Nearly the entire street will now be closed to motorized traffic; the 2nd phase will be placing utility pipes for SETAR and WEB as well as the foundations for the tram tracks. The road will be closed beginning tomorrow evening from La Linda Department Store through Dufry Shop, with a single road crossing through from Emanstraat to Steenweg on

the Waterweg so motorists need not traverse the entire length of the street to access addresses in the middle of the town. This street will experience a change of direction and now run one way, north to south. The eastern tip of Caya Betico Croes can be accessed by Burger King.

Cyril Groenewoud of MNO Vervat-Aruba, who is project manager for the construction company commis-

sion for the work, was present for Tuesday's announcement. Mr. Kock stated he expected this second phase to take about 8 to 10 weeks, certainly less than 3 months. All the work on the main street will be done at night time, as Oranjestad vendors report it is very disturbing for the heavy digging take place during business hours.

Signage will clearly mark alternative routes through town. Those coming down the Wilhelminastraat towards the main street will be redirected at Aventura Mall to the Steenweg.

Thursday marks the permanent closure of Caya Betico Croes; Mr. Kock expressed it is time for motorists to become accustomed to this development, which was announced when the project was first unveiled. Eventually, a large parking lot will be established on the outskirts of Oranjestad, and the tram will bring people to the main street, thus making the area quieter and cleaner.

by Rosalie Klein



Project Manager for MNO Vervat Aruba Cyril Groenewoud



Project Manager for DOW Jossy Kock

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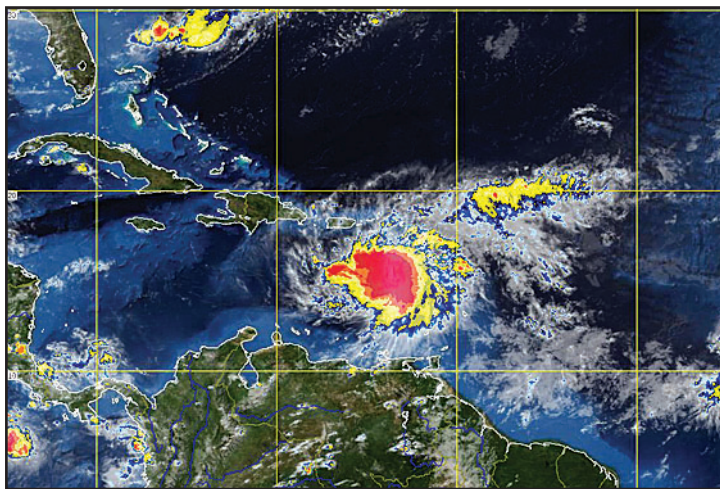


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Emily picks up speed in the Caribbean



Tropical Storm Emily, the fifth named storm of the hurricane season, is expected to make landfall in Haiti and the Dominican Republic as early as Wednesday night but doesn't appear likely to develop into a hurricane, forecaster said yesterday.

Still, Emily could cause "life-threatening flash floods and mudslides in areas of mountainous terrain" in Haiti, a country still rebuilding from a catastrophic earthquake in January 2010, according to the National Hurricane Center, based in Miami.

The center has issued a tropical-storm warning for Haiti, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, forecasting stormy conditions and heavy rainfall for Haiti and the Dominican Republic as the tropical storm approached. Up to 10 inches of rain in total could fall in Haiti, the center said.

The tropical storm has wind speeds of 40 miles per hour, expected to strengthen to 60 mph before hitting Haiti, Mr. Feltgen said. A hurricane is defined by having wind speeds greater than 73 mph.

Papiamento Restaurant is housed in a historic cunucu manor, or typical old Aruban farmhouse, built in the early nineteenth century, complete with thick walls, a sloped roof, and a cistern to gather the precious rain that falls so infrequently in Aruba.



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Sci-Tech

Man arrested for building nuclear reactor in his kitchen

SWEDEN -- Ängelholm, a small town along the coast of Sweden, isn't the first place you'd think to look in the search for a nuclear reactor. But that's just what police in the seaside city were tasked with hunting down when one of its citizens took it upon himself to construct his own radioactive power plant right in his own kitchen.

The man, was reportedly very open about his fascination with nuclear power and with his plans to attempt the dangerous project at home, though it appears nobody took him seriously. After spending \$1,000 on supplies shipped

from unspecified foreign countries, the amateur reactor builder set to work, monitoring the radiation levels in his home with a Geiger counter.

At some point, it must have occurred to the man that what he was building might not have been entirely legal, because he placed a friendly call to the Swedish Radiation Authority to see if there were any lawson the books regarding homemade nuclear reactors. Local police arrived shortly thereafter and confiscated the man's materials before placing him under arrest. He was released a short while later.

Nissan says electric car can power family home



JAPAN (AFP) -- Nissan's Leaf electric car can feed power from its battery back into a family home and run appliances for up to two days under a new project the Japanese car-maker unveiled Tuesday.

Using the "Leaf to Home" system, the lithium-ion batteries of the zero tailpipe emission Leaf can be used as an emergency power backup for the home during a natural disaster or a power blackout, Nissan said.

Nissan, 44 percent owned by Renault of France, said it aims to commercialize the

technology in Japan by March 2012.

The system works by linking the car via a quick charging port to the house's electricity distribution panel. Power can also be fed the other way if the house generates its own electricity with rooftop solar panels.

The Leaf batteries have a capacity of 24 kilowatt hours when fully charged, equivalent to the electricity used by the average Japanese household in two days, said the

company.

The output from the vehicle comes to six kilowatts, enough to power electricity-guzzling appliances such as a refrigerator, air conditioner and washing machine at the same time, the company said.

Nissan says as well as its potential use in blackouts, the car can be charged during night time off-peak hours and the electricity used by households during high-demand periods.

Green tip



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Health & Living

Israeli scientists develop date-rape drug detector

The days of having to cart your cocktail to the ladies room may be over: two Israeli scientists say they have developed a sensor that can accurately detect date-rape drugs in drinks 100 percent of the time.

Professor Fernando Patolsky and Doctor Michael Ioffe of Tel Aviv University's school of chemistry say the sensor can tell you in real time whether your martini or your mocktail has been spiked with either of the two most common date-rape drugs.

"You just dip it into your drink, it might actually look like a stirrer in the final production, it's tiny, very tiny," Ioffe told AFP.

"And you don't even have to hold it up to the light and the system will let you know whether there are drugs dissolved in your drink."

The device sucks up a tiny drop of the suspect beverage and puts it in contact with the patented chemical formula devised by Patolsky and Ioffe.

"The drug itself is reacting with this chemical formulation and the previously clear formula becomes dirty and when the light shines it you can de-

tect it," Ioffe said. "You don't have to do anything but dip it in your drink."

The two scientists tested their device on a range of popular cocktails as well as soft drinks and other beverages and found it was able to correctly tell which had been spiked 100 percent of the time.

"What's amazing is that there is no false positives until now," Ioffe said.

At present, the device can accurately detect the presence of the two of the most commonly used date-rape drugs: GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyric acid) and ketamine.

The scientists are also working to expand the device's detection capacity to include Rohypnol, another drug commonly used to sedate the victims of date rape.

"We have some very, very optimistic preliminary re-

sults," Ioffe said. "All we need is money."

The pair expect the first batch of sensors could be commercially available within a year and a half.

The chemical formula that the device uses is cheap to produce and is not poisonous, meaning companies should be able to produce the sensor without requiring government approval.

All that remains is for the producers to decide how the device will let its users know whether their drink is safe for consumption, and a range of options are being considered, Ioffe said.

"We haven't decided how it will let you know. Maybe it will just light up or a part of it will rotate or maybe it will send a signal to your cell phone because you want to be discreet about it."



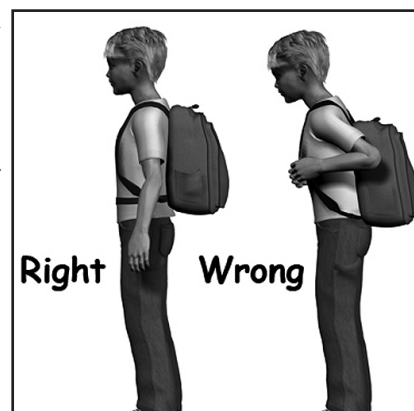
LOS ANGELES (AFP)-: Under new standards issued by the Obama administration, contraceptives for women, breast-feeding equipment and HIV testing will be covered under US health plans at no cost to women beginning next year, health insurers are required to cover all government-approved contraceptives for women, without co-payments or other charges. Also included are annual office check-ups, or well-woman visits, screening for gestational diabetes, human papillomavirus (HPV) testing for women 30 and older, sexually transmitted infection counseling and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) screening and counseling.

Health Tip: Wear a Backpack Properly

-- A heavy backpack can lead to pain and injury when a child doesn't wear it properly.

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons suggests how to avoid improper use of a backpack:

- Wear both shoulder straps.
- Make sure both straps are tight.
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- Take out items you don't need.
- Work on strengthening back muscles.



YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



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Sunset wedding for Joyce and Sander



A lovely Sunset wedding was celebrated last week for the beautiful Dutch couple Joyce Cuypers and Sander Zeebregts.

In the afternoon they officially wed in the stylish town hall in Aruba's capital Oranjestad. The lovebirds who presently reside in the Netherlands, were surrounded by family members and friends. On the beach of a private home in Aruba's little fishermen's village Savaneta, family and friends witnessed the exchange of the wedding vows and blessings, sealed with a Hollywood kiss, officiated by a local

reverend.

After that the cocktail party followed and an elegant dinner banquet under the tropical sky. All activities were organized by their friends Thijs van Westing and Marianne Groen-eveld.

"We are so grateful, we will never ever forget this day," said the couple.

They will be enjoying Aruba one more week, in a romantic ocean view studio at 'Aruba Sunset Beach Studios,' the couple's favourite spot on the island.



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Española Way owner Oliver grew up on the Spanish island of Majorca, and loves to share that nation's very congenial manner of spending an evening lingering over intriguing delicacies called "tapas" while sipping a fine wine or the refreshing, fruity concoction that is the perfect accompaniment to island dining. He has converted a charming landmark cunucu house into an

al fresco eatery; located just a short stroll from the hustle and bustle of the Palm Beach, center it allows patrons to truly enjoy Aruba's balmy breezes and tranquil environment.

Oliver and Chef Mario offer a diverse selection of delectable delicacies, which can be ordered individually or on a combo plank, a fine sampling of gourmet treats which are more than enough for 2 or 4, depending on your order. Mario also makes spectacular paella, which is a regular part of the menu every Tuesday and Sunday, or can be ordered ahead other days of the week.

Authentic Spanish treats such as Serrano ham and sausage are flown in regularly to be served fresh; Espanola Way boasts a wine cellar of

more than 2000 bottles of fine vintages. Seafood and steaks are prepared over an open wood grill, and the menu is very reasonably priced. Every Wednesday from 6:00 to 8:00 PM they conduct a "Tapas Festival," with a large selection from the tapas menu featured at 50% off the regular price, so if you have never tried these tasty treats from Spain, this is the perfect opportunity to discover this healthy and sociable method of dining.

Closed on Mondays, Española Way offers a very unique and enjoyable dining experience on Aruba; visit their website <http://espanolaway.jimdo.com/> to check out their menu and make reservations via e-mail or call 586-7177 to make reservations.

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Mac Turkeys' reunion in Aruba



The Turkeys of Macalester College. LtoR. Margaret Kelberer, Cheryl Rantala, Ruth Harms Beth Linnen, Kathy Ruther and Morna Franklin. Absent this year: Ginger McBride and Debbie Lang

As students at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota back in the early seventies, they lived on the second floor of Turk Hall and called themselves the Turkeys. They formed a bond of friendship that has lasted the almost four decades since graduation. They are Margaret "Mug" Kelberer, Cheryl Rantala and Kathy Ruther of Minneapolis, MN; Beth Linnen and Morna Franklin of Chicago, IL; and Ruth Harms who was born in Aruba, but now lives in Amherst, MA.

Other celebrities who claim Macalester College as their alma mater are: Kofi Annan (UN General Secretary), Walter Mondale (USA Veep), De Witt Wallace (Readers' Digest).

The Turkeys hold a reunion every other year. This year Ruth is hosting the reunion and the girls are spending the week at Casa del Mar. Debbie Lang of CA and Virginia "Ginger" McBride of MN could not make it to the meeting this year. The group also remembers their departed member Beth Milligan at every reunion.

The girls have a full program. On Sunday evening, Ruth's father, president of the

Aruba Scholarship Foundation, hosted a typical Aruban type fish fry with fried plantains, 'funchi', Creole sauce, 'pan bati' and avocado salad.



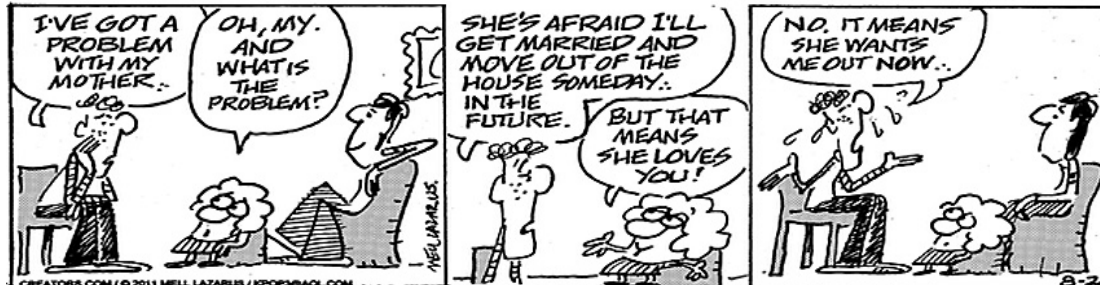
On Tuesday the Turkeys were treated to an Indonesian Rijsttafel catered by "Tante" of Savaneta. On Monday they took an escorted tour that included a swim in the natural pool. For the rest of the week they will be visiting the Renaissance Island and snorkeling during the day, sailing at sunset, and savoring the servings of some of the great restaurants of Aruba. Mug and Morna had visited Aruba when they were still students and they are amazed by the many changes that have made Aruba the tourist attraction that it is now.

COMICS

PICKLES



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ACROSS

1. "Take Me ___ Am" (2 wds.)
4. First four letters
8. Mark Harmon series
12. Writing implement
13. Hawaiian island
14. Tentacles
15. Pewter mugs
17. Pork or beef
18. Lisper's problem letter
19. Appeal
21. Rooney and Williams
24. Of the shore
27. Removes weeds
28. Pitch gently
29. Shoshonean Indian
30. Common abbr.
31. Loud shouts
32. L. ___ Hubbard
33. French friend
34. Is sickly
35. Repair
36. Mandates
38. Jewelry boxes
39. Skipper's direction
40. Contented sounds
41. Reject

43. Gibson girl's decade
48. Hymn ending
49. Great amount
50. "Long, Long ___"
51. Undressed
52. Presses charges
53. Linoleum cleaner

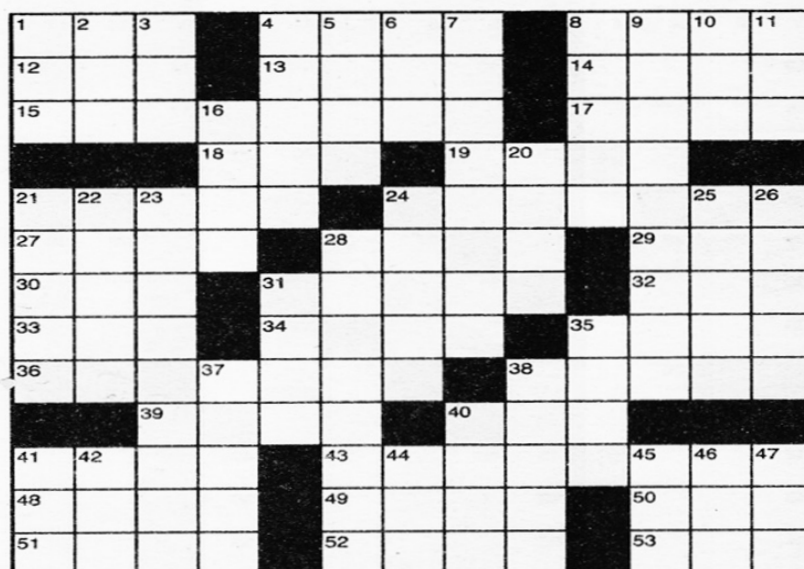
DOWN

1. Disposed (to)
2. Watery expanse
3. Country resort
4. Gather together
5. Saloons
6. Cow's

7. Gets rid of
8. Appoints
9. Living beings
10. "___ Man" (2 wds.)
11. Fast jet (abbr.)
16. Small islands
20. Highlands gal
21. Winning
22. "I didn't do it!" (2 wds.)
23. Wiped out
24. Loops of rope
25. Repent
26. Gives temporarily
28. Fishing spears
31. Vaudeville prop

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9	7	6	2	8	5	1	3	4
2	4	8	1	9	3	6	7	5
1	5	8	2	6	7	3	2	9
5	3	1	7	9	6	2	4	8
8	1	7	9	3	2	6	9	4
6	9	2	4	1	8	5	3	7
3	2	9	5	7	1	4	8	6
4	6	1	9	2	8	7	5	3
7	8	5	6	1	3	9	4	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Obama says austerity bill only a 'first step'



US President Obama makes a statement to the press in the Ross Garden of the White House on August 2, 2011.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama signed an emergency austerity bill Tuesday that averted a debt default, but warned the contentious plan was "just the first step" on a long road to economic recovery.

"It's an important first step to ensuring that, as a nation, we live within our means," Obama said in the White House Rose Garden after polarized lawmakers sent him the legislation. "This is, however, just the first step."

The measure lifts cash-strapped Washington's \$14.3 trillion debt limit by up to \$2.4 trillion while cutting at least \$2.1 trillion in government spending over 10 years, a step forecast to drag down already sluggish US growth.

Obama spoke after the US Senate voted 74-26 to pass the measure -- which cleared the House of Representatives by an overwhelming 269-161 margin on Monday -- with just hours to spare before a midnight (0400 Wednesday) deadline that could have triggered a first-ever US default on its debt payments.

Congressional approval paid immediate dividends as the IMF applauded the deal and the Fitch ratings agency said the hard-fought 11th-hour compromise would spare Washington from losing its sterling Triple-A debt rating.

At the International Monetary Fund, Managing Director Christine Lagarde applauded the statement as "good for both the US and global economy" but pushed US leaders to craft a plan to put public finances "on a sustainable path."

Republicans have promised that the spending cuts will create jobs, but top Wall Street economists have warned the austerity measures will actually be a drag on already sluggish US growth even as government stimulus measures run out.

The overall shift from priming the US economy to government belt-tightening is expected to reduce US growth next year by about 1.5 percentage points, according to JPMorgan Chase economists.

The vote came as the US Commerce Department reported that US consumer spending, the economy's key driver, fell 0.2 percent in June relative to May, while personal income was basically stagnant, with just a 0.1 percent increase.

Both figures fell short of

analysts' expectations and offered the latest discouraging omen about the US economy, which grew at a feeble 1.3 percent in the second quarter of 2011, much worse than economists had expected.

The news overshadowed the debt deal and weighed on US stocks, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average falling 32.47 points (0.27 percent) to 12,100.02 in the first 20 minutes of trading.

The broader S&P 500 dropped 5.01 points (0.39 percent) to 1,281.93, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite shed 6.48 points (0.24 percent) to stand at 2,738.13.

Despite such wrenching worries, major US companies like 3M, Caterpillar, Goodyear, Microsoft and Apple have been packing away record profits and could have their most profitable quarter ever.

Obama signaled that he would campaign for raising tax revenue on the rich and wealthy corporations, a proposal that has already generated lockstep opposition from Republicans who contend it would smother job creation.

Democrats, especially on the party's left flank, have expressed outrage that the bargain Obama struck with his Republican foes omitted any tax increase on the wealthy.

The new law calls for more than \$900 billion in cuts over the next 10 years -- \$350 billion of it in defense -- and creates a special congressional committee tasked with coming up with another \$1.5 trillion in cuts to report by November 23, with Congress voting by December 23.

US stocks plunge despite debt cap deal

NEW YORK (AFP) - US stocks wiped out most of their gains for 2011 on Tuesday, plunging after poor economic data overshadowed a congressional deal to raise the country's debt ceiling and avoid a default.

The Dow Jones Industrial Av-

erage was down 265.72 points (2.19 percent) to 11,866.77 in closing trade, the broader S&P 500 dropped 32.90 points (2.56 percent) to 1,254.04 and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite shed 75.37 points (2.75 percent) to 2,669.24.

US eases Somalia sanctions as famine worsens

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States said Tuesday it would support relief work in areas of Somalia held by the Al-Qaeda-linked Shebab, easing restrictions as despair grows over a famine that has killed thousands.

US officials said they were maintaining sanctions against the militia, which controls some of the worst-hit parts of southern Somalia, but would fund reputable groups that take the risk to bring food into Shebab territory.

US officials said the sanctions were never intended to affect aid groups, but that Washington wanted to send a signal that relief workers should not fear legal repercussions for bringing food where

it is most needed.

About \$1 billion has already been promised by the international community, but Amos said Monday the United Nations "urgently needs another \$1.4 billion to save lives."

The United States has devoted more than \$450 million to emergency assistance in the Horn of Africa. But Shebab-ruled areas are the worst hit and US officials acknowledged Tuesday's changes may not have a major effect.

President Barack Obama has authorized arms shipments to fighters battling the Shebab, fearing the lawless country could become a new safe haven for Al-Qaeda and other extremist networks.

Swiss man charged with US tax fraud conspiracy

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A Swiss man has been charged with conspiracy to defraud the US government after he allegedly helped clients evade taxes by stashing their money in Switzerland, US justice officials said Tuesday.

Martin Lack, a private asset manager who once worked for Swiss banking giant UBS, allegedly helped US customers hide income in undeclared

Swiss accounts in Basel and encouraged them to ignore US tax law, according to the Justice Department.

Lack also allegedly traveled to the United States to carry out banking and currency transactions for his clients using undeclared accounts. He is also said to have offered his clients falsified bank documents.



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1200 people went wild during the Balashi Beach Bash



The Balashi Beach Bash, featuring Chill Beer at mooMba Beach was a gigantic party last Sunday. At least 1200 people went wild during the electrifying performances of Swingmasterz, Honeypot and Da Housemob. Chill flowed freely, as did Balashi, Aruba's very own, locally brewed beers.

The Bash started early, at 3

pm, with free tube rides and great music, sunshine and, of course, lots of beer, but the party atmosphere started for real when the sun set, the stars came out and the bands came on stage.

More and more people showed up, crowding the beach, dancing, having fun and chilling, as photos show

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals

Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and

families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before



arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly

savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments,

activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

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Box at London's Albert Hall on sale for \$900,000



Boxes at the Royal Albert Hall are extremely rare and those with original features are even rarer

LONDON (AFP) - A five-seat box at the world-famous Royal Albert Hall in London is up for sale for a princely £550,000 (630,000 euros, \$900,000), the estate agents said Tuesday.

Harrods Estates described the box, which it is claimed contains the best seats in the concert hall, as the "ultimate gift" for a loved one.

Although the same money would buy a two-bedroomed

flat in the exclusive Chelsea district not far away, the 865-year lease should give the owner and their descendants enough time to make it worthwhile.

The box is the only one left in the hall still featuring its original timber veneer and mirrored panels, while its location on the second tier on the eastern side of the auditorium offers spectacular views of the main stage.

Shirley Humphrey, sales and marketing director at Harrods Estate, said: "The boxes at the Royal Albert Hall are extremely rare and those with original features are even rarer, so we anticipate to receive a high level of interest."

"This five-seat box is perfect for entertaining, whether it is business or pleasure."

The Royal Albert Hall was part of a plan envisaged by Queen Victoria's consort Prince Albert to create an estate to promote the understanding and appreciation of the arts and sciences in the South Kensington area of London.

When he died in 1861, the plans went ahead and the hall was opened in March 1871. Since then it has become one of Britain's top music venues, hosting everything from the series of classical concerts known as the Proms to gigs by Jay Z.

To raise funds for the completion of the building, private individuals were invited to buy 999-year leases on some of the seats, for £100 each. Queen Victoria bought 20, and the current monarch still has a box there.

If the five-seat box on sale is a little too expensive, a block of five stall seats is also available through Harrods Estates, costing a cool £375,000.

Bruce Lee items to be sold at Hong Kong auction



"Absorb what is useful. Reject what is useless."

-Bruce Lee

HONG KONG (AFP) - Thirteen items belonging to the late kung fu legend Bruce Lee, including a 1966 letter he wrote and a fur-lined coat will go under the hammer in a Hong Kong auction next week, according to a report.

The sale, which could raise up to HK\$880,000 (\$112,900), is believed to be the largest-scale auction of his memorabilia in the southern Chinese city, where Lee was raised before moving to the United States in his late teens.

Items to be sold from his estate include a letter he wrote 45 years ago to a friend in which the martial arts specialist talked about the television series *The Green Hornet*, in which he played Kato, a confidant of the superhero.

"The item is meaningful in the sense that it can allow us to understand more about Bruce Lee's views and what he thought about his work at that time," Wong Yiu-keung, the Bruce Lee Fan Club chairman told the South China Morning Post.

Other items to be sold at the August 6 auction include a

dark-blue fur-lined coat which was made around 1973 for Lee's film *Game of Death*, a membership card for his kung fu institute, and a name card of Lee.

The sale is jointly organised by auction houses America's Kelleher Auctions and Phila China of Hong Kong. Bruce Lee Fan Club and Phila China could not be reached for immediate comment on Saturday.

The Hong Kong government said last month that it has shelved a plan to turn Lee's old home in the southern Chinese city -- which later became a rundown love hotel -- into a museum, citing differences with the property owner.

Fans of the icon, who died in 1973 at the age of 32, have long called for museum dedicated to Lee in the city.

Lee -- credited with catapulting the martial arts film genre into the mainstream with films including *Fists of Fury* and the posthumously released *Enter the Dragon* -- died after a severe reaction to medication.

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Cricket: Dhoni admits schedule catching-up with India

NOTTINGHAM (AFP) - India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was looking forward to the chance to regroup after his side's crushing 319-run second Test defeat by England again raised questions about players' workloads.

England's victory, achieved with more than a day to spare, left them 2-0 up in this four-match series and on course to replace India at the top of the ICC's Test Championship table -- something they will achieve if they win the third Test at Edgbaston starting on August 10.

India arrived in England hot on the heels of completing a Test series win away to the West Indies and then played just the one warm-up match, against county side Somerset.

They subsequently lost the first Test by 196 runs at Lord's where left-arm strike bowler Zaheer Khan broke down with a hamstring problem that meant he didn't play at Trent Bridge.

Meanwhile Dhoni has hardly had a meaningful break since leading India to World Cup final glory against Sri Lanka in Mumbai in April.

He was then immediately plunged into a full campaign in the cash-rich Indian Premier League where he captained the Chennai Super Kings to victory in the Twenty20 tournament.

Although Dhoni, who would have enough to worry about were he merely to concentrate solely on his dual role as a wicketkeeper/batsman, sat out the one-dayers in the West

Indies, he was back at the helm for a three-Test campaign which India won 1-0.

With national boards unwilling to cut down on the volume of international cricket which, through multi-million dollar television deals, provides them with the bulk of their income, and many players either unwilling or unable to say 'no' to the immensely lucrative IPL, it appears something has to give.

And, currently, the strain appears to be showing on the 30-year-old Dhoni whose run of low scores in the ongoing series was compounded on Monday when he was out for a golden duck after falling lbw playing no shot to Tim Bresnan.

It was the action of a tired man, in every sense, and Dhoni told reporters after stumps: "It's a mental thing as well because for some of us it's been a seven-match Test series with hardly any gap."

"The preparation needs to be slightly different which is

why we are saying the next 10 days are important for us -- not only physically but mentally as well," added Dhoni, whose team have a two-day practice match against Northamptonshire starting on Friday.

"When you have lost one of your four bowlers (Zaheer) it makes things hard, but the fast bowlers got us breakthroughs at valuable times.

"The other important thing is to put runs on the board and we are slightly lacking in that.

"Right from the last series we played we haven't scored consistently so that's also a bit of a concern.

Dashing opener Virender Sehwag will fly to England today to reinforce the embattled Indian team for the last two Tests, the Indian cricket board said.

Sehwag, 32, whose brilliant strokeplay has propelled India's batting in the past, missed the previous series in the West Indies and the first two Tests in England because of shoulder surgery in May.

Cycling stars Evans, Schlecks enter US race



Australia's Cadel Evans

DENVER (AFP)- Tour de France winner Cadel Evans of Australia and fellow podium finishers Andy and Frank Schleck will race in this month's inaugural USA Pro Cycling Challenge, organizers said Tuesday.

No American cycling race has ever boasted the top trio from the world's most prestigious cycling race, but the August 22-28 event that finishes in downtown Denver will see a world-class field compete over record climbs across the Rocky Mountains.

"For us, this is a great validation for our inaugural event to have the entire podium from

the Tour," Challenge co-chairman Shawn Hunter said.

"Given the roster commitments we've had this week, we believe this will be one of the most competitive fields to ever race on American soil. We will end up seeing seven or eight of the top-10 finishers from the Tour."

Evans rides for BMC Racing while the Schleck brothers ride for Team Leopard Trek. Andy is a three-time Tour de France runner-up while Frank won the 2010 Tour of Switzerland.

Italy's Ivan Basso, a two-time Giro d'Italia winner, and American Levi Leipheimer are also in the field of 128 riders for the 518-mile race.

Organizers have not heard from controversial three-time Tour de France winner Alberto Contador, who finished fifth in last month's race.

The US race will feature the two highest climbs in competitive global cycling history on the same day during stage three, a taxing test that was needed and received special approval from the International Cycling Union.



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Sweeting puts himself into path of Monfils



WASHINGTON (AFP) - American Ryan Sweeting will face French top seed Gael Monfils after a first-round triumph on Tuesday at the \$1.4 million ATP Washington Classic.

Sweeting ousted countryman Alex Bogomolov 6-2, 6-4 to secure a second-round meeting with seventh-ranked Monfils, among 16 players to receive an opening-round bye.

US wildcard Ryan Harrison defeated Germany's Mischa Zverev 6-4, 1-6, 6-1 to book a second-round date with Serbian third seed Vik-

tor Troicki, second-highest among the ranked players in the event after eighth-ranked Mardy Fish withdrew.

Joining the injury list with Fish, who had a bruised right heel, was Chilean Fernando Gonzalez, who pulled out Tuesday with knee tendinitis. He was replaced by Bosnian Amer Delic for a first-round match with Germany's Tommy Haas.

In other first-round matches, Germany's Michael Berrer beat Italy's Paolo Lorenzi 7-5, 6-1 and Italy's Flavio Cipolla downed Turkey's Marsel Ilhan 7-5, 6-0.

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Ageless Date-Krumm wins in San Diego

SAN DIEGO (AFP) - Japan's 40-year-old wonder woman Kimiko Date-Krumm beat newly-married Argentine Gisela Dulko 7-5, 6-0 Tuesday in a post-honeymoon wake-up call to reach the second round of the San Diego Open.

Date-Krumm won the event in 1996 back in her first tennis life and just before she retired to eventually spend 11 years out of the game.

Her victory in just under 90 minutes with six breaks of the distracted Dulko got Date-Krumm off to a much more promising start at this edition after losing in qualifying rounds here a year ago. She was joined in the sec-

ond round by Japanese compatriot Ayumi Morita, a winner over Australian Jelena Dokic 6-1, 4-6, 7-5 and second-round opponent for Serbian fifth seed Ana Ivanovic.

Date-Krumm, who took five-time champion Venus Williams to three sets in their Wimbledon second-round encounter in June, said that she had some luck in victory over Dulko.

"I was confused a bit in the first set," admitted the Japanese winner, who returned to tennis in 2008 and got back into WTA play by mid-2009 after years of encouragement from her German husband.

Fit Tiger feels no rust from layoff

AKRON (AFP) - Former World No. 1 Tiger Woods said he felt as physically fit as he has been in years and not rusty following a nine-hole practice round Tuesday ahead of his first event after an 11-week injury layoff.

The 14-time major champion, chasing the record 18 major titles won by Jack Nicklaus, will return Thursday in the first round of the World Golf Championship Bridgestone Invitational paired alongside British Open champion Darren Clarke.

"I'm ready to go," Woods said. "Doctors gave me the clearance to go, so here I am. Started back practicing a couple weeks ago, which was nice. I feel good now and here I am."

Woods, who has not won a title in 22 months and slid to 28th in the world rankings, is a seven-time winner at Firestone Country Club, although he posted his worst 72-hole pro score the last time he played the course.

Woods has not played a competitive round since withdrawing after the first nine holes of the Players Championship last May, when Woods aggravated left knee and Achilles tendon injuries that he suffered last April at the Masters.

With boyhood pal Bryon Bell serving as his caddie in the wake of his firing of long-time bagman Steve Williams, Woods toured the familiar course early in the morning and said he felt in solid form. "The shots felt very crisp, very clean. I was very pleased," Woods said. "My start lines were good. They were nice and tight, which was good. Everything we have been working on we're very pleased with. Just got to keep working at it."

Woods said he has already



Tiger Woods hits balls on the driving range before a practice round for the World Golf Championships Bridgestone Invitational

had "a ton" of applicants for the caddie job that Bell takes over on a temporary basis this week and next week, when Woods bids for a 15th major title at the PGA Championship at Atlanta Athletic Club.

"I thought it was time for a change," Woods said of firing Williams. "I felt that Steve and I have had just an amazing run. Steve is a hell of a caddie, there's no denying that. He's helped my career, and I think I've helped his."

"We've had a great partnership for 12 years, won a bunch of tournaments, but I just felt it was time to change things up a little bit. I felt very comfortable with the move."

Asked about Williams

saying he felt like he had wasted the past two years of his life sticking with Woods in the wake of a 2009 sex scandal, Woods said, "Well, that's what he says and what he feels."

Woods said he has no timetable for naming a new caddie but wants someone with experience at dealing with pressure of top-level golf and noted that he hopes to qualify for the 125-man US PGA playoffs that start later this month.

"(I want) someone that obviously understands the pressure of the game coming down the back nine, someone who probably has been there before and who understands it and can deal with that," Woods said. "That's something that I will definitely be looking for."

England's World No. 1 Luke Donald, who won the WGC Match-Play crown in February, will be paired with Masters champion Charl Schwartzel of South Africa for the first two rounds.

World No. 2 Lee Westwood of England will play alongside 2010 US Open winner Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland while defending champion Hunter Mahan of the United States is joined by McDowell's countryman Rory McIlroy, the US Open champion.

MLB Standings									
American League					National League				
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	66	41	.617	--	PHILADELPHIA	69	39	.639	--
NY YANKEES	65	42	.607	1.0	ATLANTA	63	47	.573	7.0
TAMPA	56	51	.523	10.0	NY METS	55	54	.505	14.5
TORONTO	55	53	.509	11.5	FLORIDA	54	55	.495	15.5
BALTIMORE	42	63	.400	23.0	WASHINGTON	52	56	.481	17.0
Central	W	L	Pct	GB	Central	W	L	Pct	GB
DETROIT	57	51	.528	--	MILWAUKEE	61	49	.555	--
CLEVELAND	54	52	.509	2.0	ST. LOUIS	57	52	.523	3.5
CHICAGO	52	55	.486	4.5	PITTSBURG	54	53	.505	5.5
MINNESOTA	50	58	.463	7.0	CINCINNATI	53	56	.486	7.5
KANSAS	46	62	.426	11.0	CHICAGO	44	65	.404	16.5
West	W	L	Pct	GB	West	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	61	48	.560	--	SAN FRANCISCO	61	48	.560	--
LA ANGELES	59	50	.541	2.5	ARIZONA	60	49	.550	1.0
OAKLAND	49	60	.450	12.0	COLORADO	51	58	.468	10.0
SEATTLE	46	62	.426	14.5	LA DODGERS	49	59	.454	11.5
					SAN DIEGO	47	63	.427	14.5

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League files lawsuit against players union



NEW YORK (AFP) - The NBA filed a federal lawsuit against the league's players union on Tuesday, hoping to establish the legality of the lockout imposed a month ago and protect against a possible players lawsuit.

League officials also announced Tuesday they were filing an unfair labor practice charge against the National Basketball Players Association, claiming the union has not bargained in good faith.

The moves come one day after talks that produced no movement and just over a month after the previous collective bargaining agreement between club owners and players expired, sparking the second shutdown in NBA history.

Owners claim losses and seek salary cuts and a firm payroll cap while players hope to keep things basically as they have been under the old deal made in 2005. Each side has pocketed about half of \$4.3 billion in annual revenues.

The NBA move takes a

page from the NFL lockout that concluded last week, when American football's union decertified so players could press an anti-trust case in US courts, in part to attack the legality of the lockout.

NBA players union leaders have mentioned decertification and an anti-trust lawsuit as a possible tactic in negotiations with the NBA, something the league seeks to prevent with the labor charge and lawsuit against the union.

"These claims were filed in an effort to eliminate the use of impermissible pressure tactics by the union which are impeding the parties' ability to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement," NBA deputy commissioner Adam Silver said.

"For the parties to reach agreement on a new CBA, the union must commit to the collective bargaining process fully and in good faith."

The league's lawsuit wants to establish the lockout as not being a violation of US anti-trust laws and that if a union decertification was declared lawful, that all current player contracts would be void and unenforceable.

In the NFL lockout, players have voted to reinstate the NFL Players Association as a union, but only as a condition of final approval of a settlement deal reached at the negotiation table.

The NBA shows no signs of being near that point as players ponder signing with

teams in other nations for the duration of the lockout and fans wonder if the season will begin on November 1 as scheduled.

"We haven't seen any movement. There's still a very wide gap between us," NBA commissioner David Stern said. "I don't feel opti-

mistic about the players' willingness to engage in a serious way."

Not since the 1998-99 NBA season was trimmed to 50 games has there been an NBA shutdown until now. Some of the NBA club owners involved also owned National Hockey League clubs

when that league lost the entire 2004-05 season to a labor dispute.

"We're continuing to try to work around what's been said and really focus on the deal on the table," union president Derek Fisher said. "Right now we're still a very, very long way from getting a deal done."

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